

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph after the title and before the first line of the text:

-- This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/822,291, filed April 2, 2001, now abandoned, which in turn, is a continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/FR99/02350, filed on October 1, 1999, which designates the United States of America and was published under PCT Article 21(2), which International Application was not published by the International Bureau in English on April 13, 2000, and claims benefit of French Application 98 12389, filed on October 2, 1998. These applications are all incorporated by reference in their entirety. --